



3rd Annual NCEM Hurricane Conference

Decision Making Time – Hurricane Irene
“The Perspective of a New Coordinator”

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Presentation Overview

- Hyde County Geography
- Evacuation Plan – Formulation
- Evacuation Plan – Implementation
- Decision Arc
- Landfall and Impacts
- Response
- Recovery



Hyde County Geography

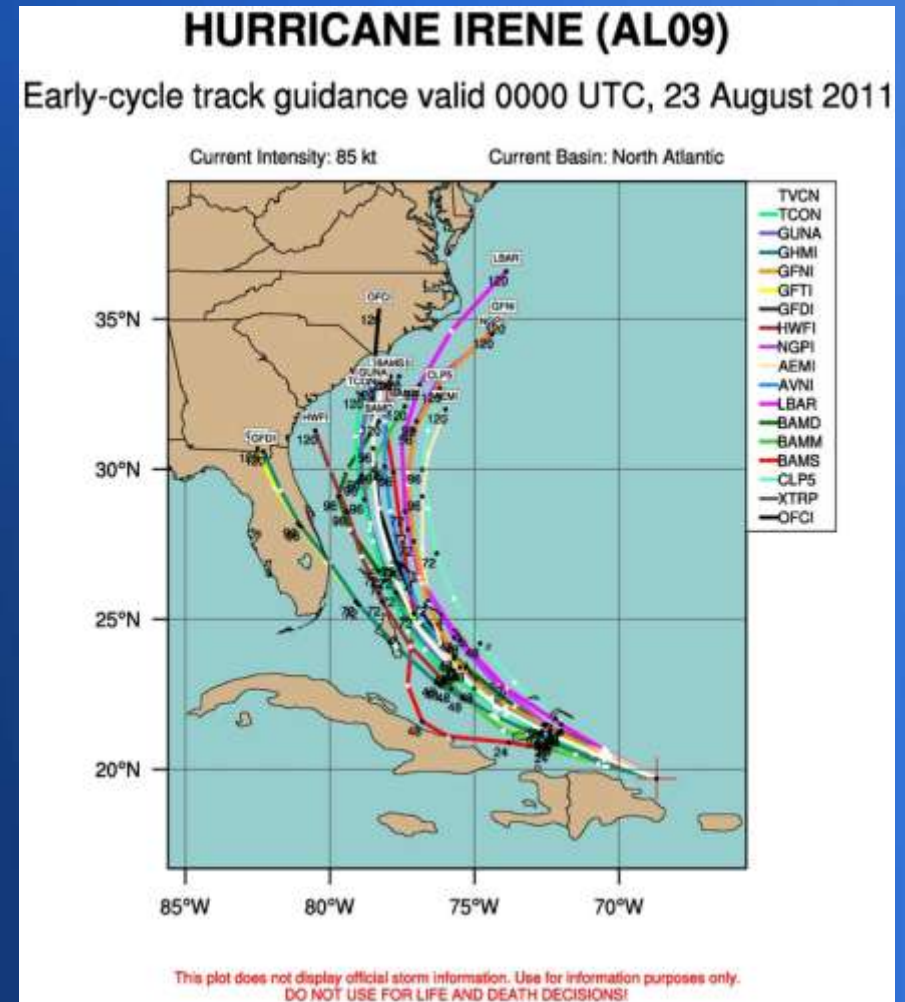


Evacuation Plan - Formulation

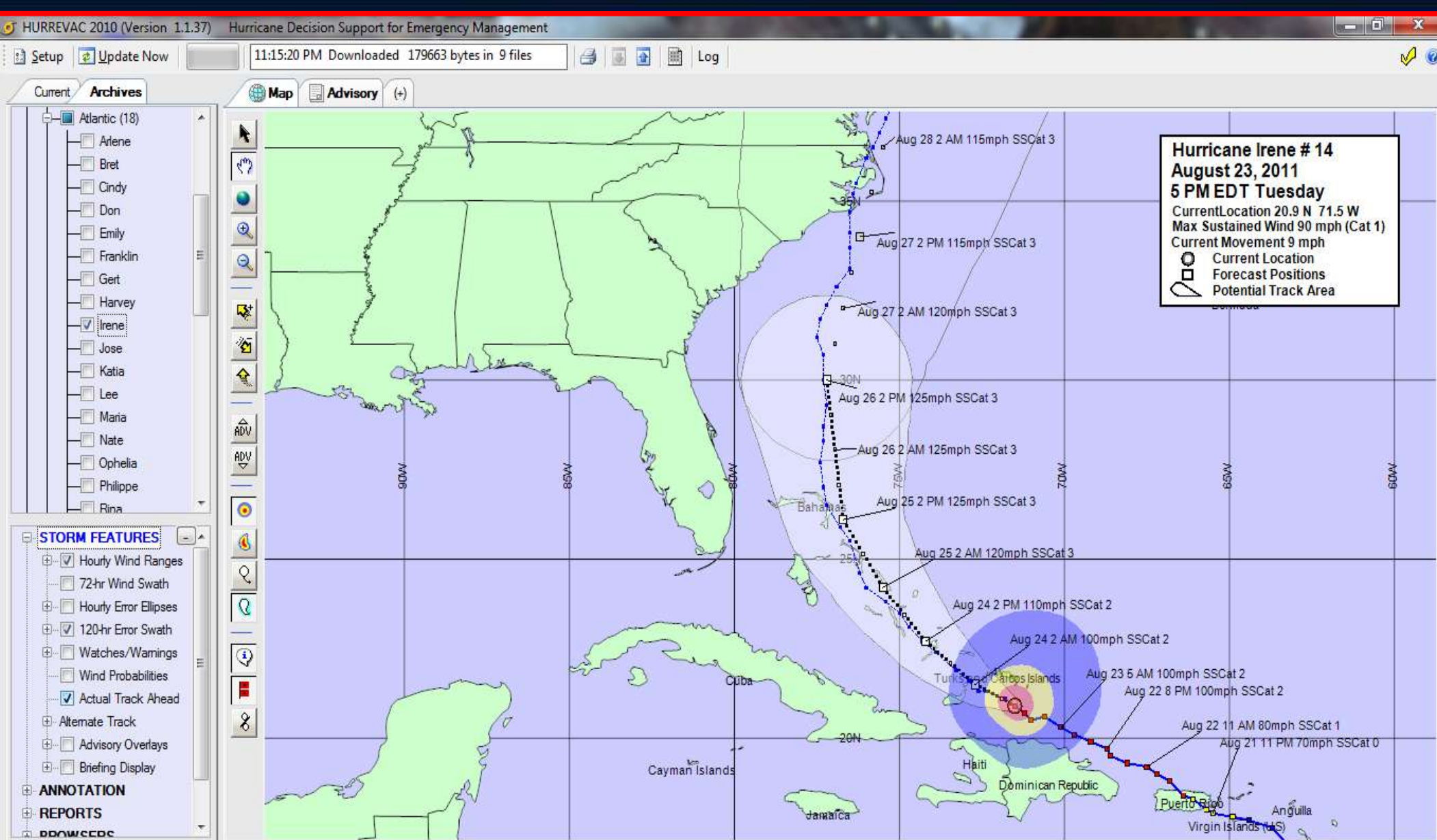
- In May 2011 Hyde County Emergency Services hosted a Hurricane Evacuation Planning Meeting for Federal, State and Local agencies.
- North Carolina Emergency Management officials stressed the importance of an early evacuation due to the unique circumstances in Hyde County, also declaring early evacuations would allow for an orderly progression of evacuations and would reduce the strain on the transportation system.
- At this meeting, the attending agencies reviewed the North Carolina Coastal Regional Evacuation and Sheltering Plan (CRESP) clearance times and it was determined that the ferry division would require an additional 12 hours before the onset of tropical storm force winds. The additional 12 hour buffer would allow the NC Ferry Division time to relocate and prepare the ferries for landfall.
- The attending agencies also requested for the evacuation orders to be issued in a timely manner to allow a preparation period and provide a 24 hour period for non-residents to evacuate before issuing the evacuation orders for residents.

Evacuation Plan - Implementation

- On August 23, 2011 at 1700 hours the Hyde County Board of Commissioners were briefed on the forecast for Hurricane Irene and emergency orders were requested by the Hyde County Emergency Services Department due to the projected path of the storm. Hyde County Emergency Services worked closely with the hotels to obtain occupancy numbers and to issue emergency notifications. A press release was issued and reverse 9-1-1 calls were placed notifying the public of the state of emergency declaration and the mandatory evacuation order for all non-residents, thus giving the non-residents 12 hours to prepare before the evacuation began.
- The State of Emergency went into effect on August 24, 2011 at 0500 hours and the mandatory evacuation of all non-residents began. A press release was issued and reverse 9-1-1 calls were placed notifying the public that the mandatory evacuation of all Hyde County residents would begin on August 25, 2011 at 0500 hours, thus giving the residents 24 hours to prepare before the evacuation began.

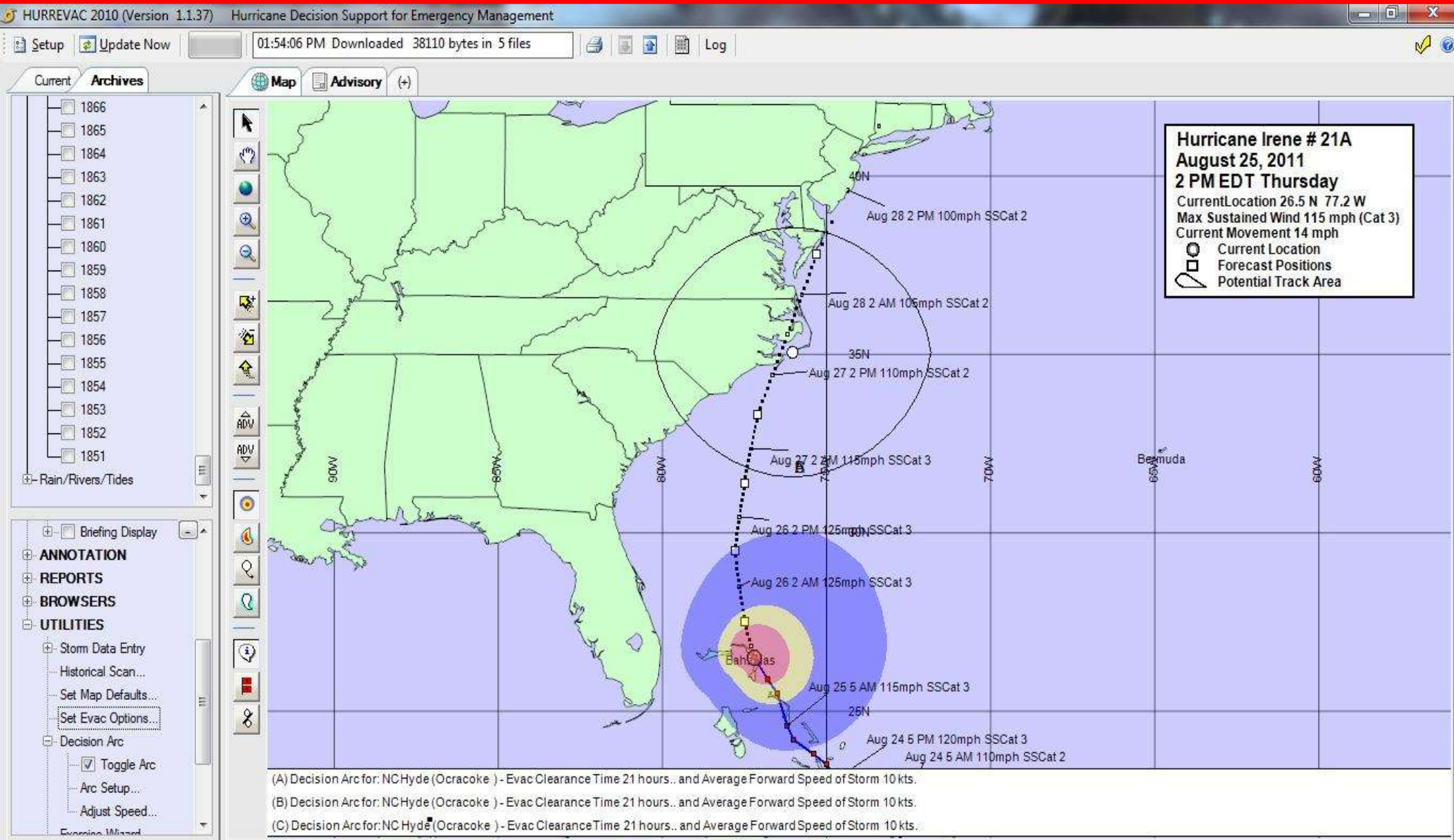


Official Forecast Track – 8/23/2011 1700 hours





Decision Arc





Buffered Decision Arc

HURREVAC 2010 (Version 1.1.37) Hurricane Decision Support for Emergency Management

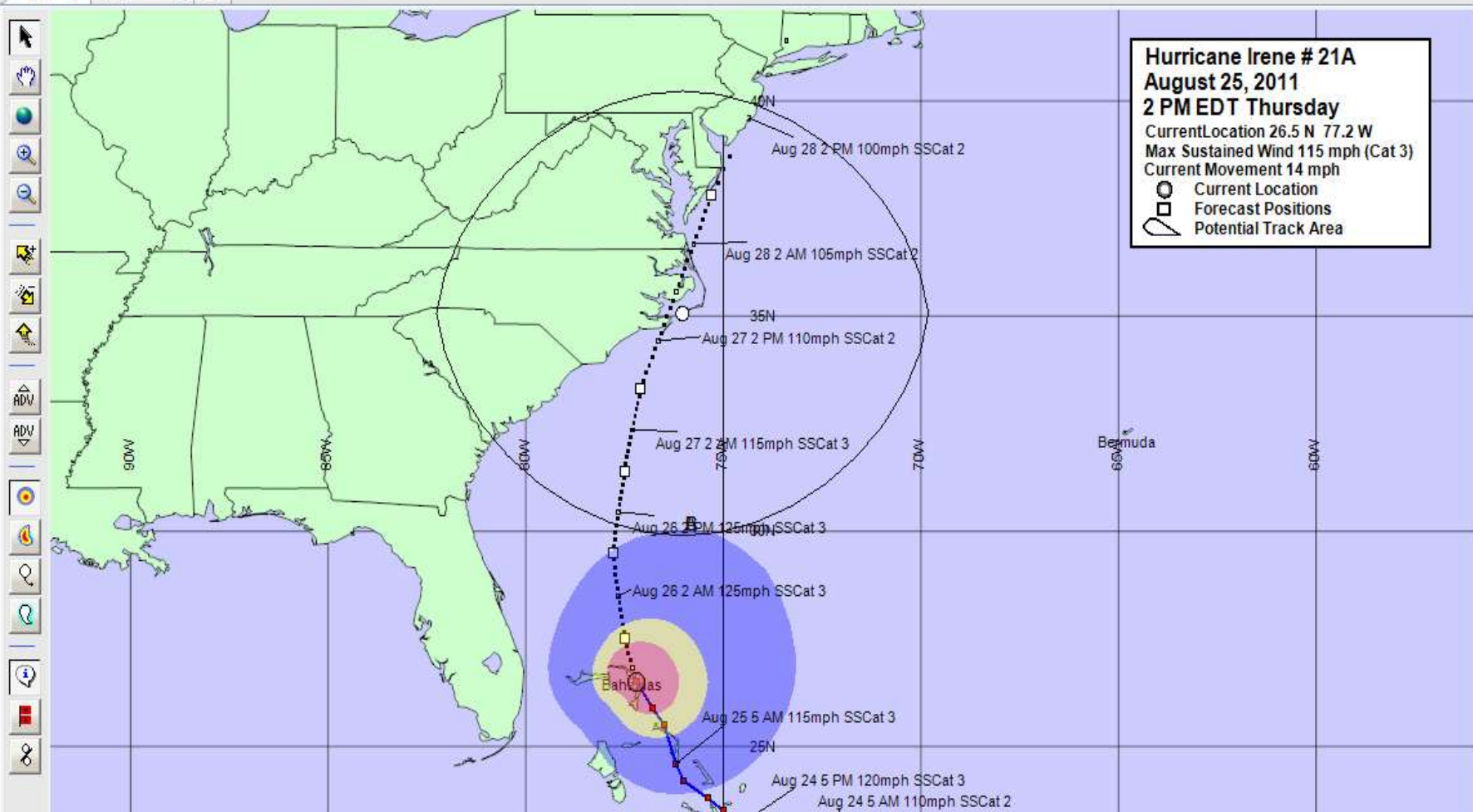
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Current Archives

- ☐ 1866
 - ☐ 1865
 - ☐ 1864
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 - ☐ 1860
 - ☐ 1859
 - ☐ 1858
 - ☐ 1857
 - ☐ 1856
 - ☐ 1855
 - ☐ 1854
 - ☐ 1853
 - ☐ 1852
 - ☐ 1851
- ☐ Rain/Rivers/Tides

- ☐ Briefing Display
- ☐ ANNOTATION
- ☐ REPORTS
- ☐ BROWSERS
- ☐ UTILITIES
 - ☐ Storm Data Entry
 - ☐ Historical Scan...
 - ☐ Set Map Defaults...
 - ☐ Set Evac Options...
 - ☐ Decision Arc
 - ☒ Toggle Arc
 - ☐ Arc Setup...
 - ☐ Adjust Speed...

Map Advisory (+)



(A) Decision Arc for: NCHyde (Ocracoke) - Evac Clearance Time 31 hours.. and Average Forward Speed of Storm 10 kts.

(B) Decision Arc for: NCHyde (Ocracoke) - Evac Clearance Time 31 hours.. and Average Forward Speed of Storm 10 kts.

(C) Decision Arc for: NCHyde (Ocracoke) - Evac Clearance Time 31 hours.. and Average Forward Speed of Storm 10 kts.

Hyde County EOC Operations

- The Hyde County EOC was fully activated on August 24, 2011 at 0800 hours, to coordinate the non-resident evacuation that was on going, to make preparations for the mandatory evacuation of all Hyde County residents, and to pre-stage supplies for the response phase of the incident.
- On August 24, 2011 Hyde County requested a 4 person Overhead Team to assist with EOC management and the team arrived on August 25th at 2100 hours.
- On Saturday August 27th a 10 person Incident Management Team was requested from NCEM to assist with managing response and recovery activities.
- The Incident Management Team remained in place through September 4th.



Above and left: County Staff, Overhead Team members, and IMT members shadowing each other in preparation for the transition in EOC staffing.

Evacuation Actions

- Host/Risk Shelters were established in Nash and Wilson Counties.
- Hyde Transit and the Hyde County School System provided transportation assistance for those citizens who chose to evacuate.
- Special Medical Needs Shelters were opened in Pitt County and transport companies as well as Hyde County EMS provided transport services for patients needing to evacuate.
- Residents of the local nursing home were evacuated to a sister facility.
- Hyde County Correctional Institution evacuated 750 prisoners to various correctional facilities throughout the state.

Landfall and The Impacts

- Landfall occurred on Saturday, August 27, 2011 at 0800 hours.
- Storm tide of approximately 7 feet.
- Major flooding in the Scranton/Sladesville area.
- Sustained high winds over an extended period of time.
- Damage to the infrastructure in Dare County resulted in power outages on Ocracoke Island and the island operated on generator power thus delaying re-entry, the delay had severe economic impacts.
- Severe damage to the sewer spray field that serves Hyde County Correctional Institute which delayed the return of 750 prisoners for weeks. The delayed return of the prisoners resulted in a loss of utility revenues (approximately \$75,000-\$100,000 in lost revenue.)
- The rainfall and standing flood waters vastly increased the number of mosquito breeding sites and increased the chances of being exposed to an infectious diseases.

Landfall and The Impacts – By The Numbers

731 Residences Damaged

18 Residences Destroyed

749 Total Residences
Affected

53 Businesses Damaged

1 Businesses Destroyed

54 Total Businesses
Affected



Hyde County Hurricane Irene Response



FEMA

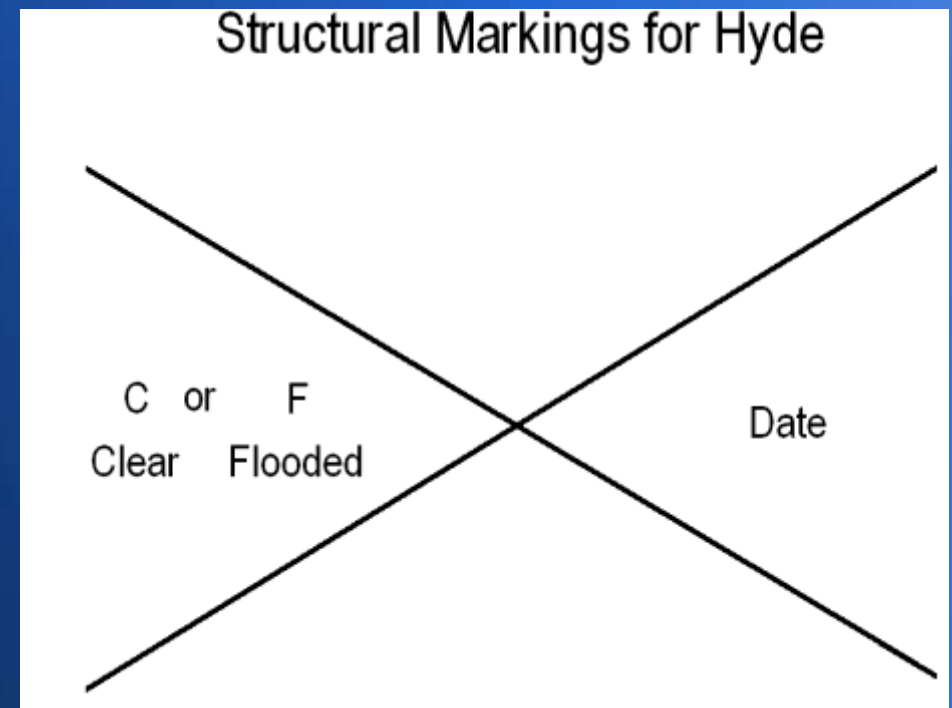


Response – Emergency Services

- Greensboro Fire Department was sent to Hyde County to assist with swift water rescues and search and rescue.
- Locally stationed NC Wildlife Resource Officers and assets were placed on standby to assist with swift water rescues.
- Six EMS personnel were requested to assist Hyde County EMS.
- The NC Highway Patrol Officers were sent to assist the Hyde County Sheriff's Office with traffic enforcement and the Ocracoke Re-entry process.
- NC Marine Patrol Officers and boats were requested to patrol the waters around Ocracoke Island to prevent re-entry by boat.
- Alcohol Law Enforcement agents were sent to Hyde County to assist the Sheriff's Office with Securing the Points of Distribution.
- Additional code enforcement officials were provided by Wake County to assist the the local Inspections Department with preliminary damage assessments.

Response – Fire Departments

- The five mainland Fire Chiefs were briefed twice a day at the EOC in order to ensure seamless communication between the EOC and the fire departments.
- Additional fire resources were requested to augment the fire departments due to many of the volunteers being affected by the event and to assist the local departments during the response phase.
- The fire departments assisted with debris clearance, conducted jurisdictional welfare checks and assisted with the distribution of disaster supplies.



Response – Points of Distribution

- Hyde County established a Central Receiving and Distribution Point at Mattamuskeet Fresh Produce in order to receive disaster supplies such as food, water, cleaning kits, personal hygiene kits, coolers, and ice.
- From the CRDP, resources were then distributed to the five mainland fire departments which were used as points of distribution in order to get disaster supplies to the citizens.



Left: Members of the Civil Air Patrol that assisted with establishing a CRDP and distributing supplies.

Response - Sheltering



- A Red Cross post storm sheltering operation was established at Ponzer Community Center.
- An animal sheltering operation was established along with the Red Cross Shelter, this operation was staffed with Charlotte - Mecklenburg Police Department Animal Care and Control Officers.

Response - Communications

- The Highway Patrol provided a cache of radios for emergency services (local and requested resources.)
- Statewide Event channels were requested to ensure interoperable communication between the local and requested resources.
- The VIPER (state wide communications) radio tower was damaged during the storm and a team was requested to fix the tower.
- During the VIPER outage, the responders communicated via local VHF channels.

Response – Public Information

- Early in the incident it was recognized that communication would be an issue and it was vital that the EOC get information to the citizens.
- A Public Information Officer position was established and public advisories began going out every 24 hours.
- Each fire station was asked to set up an information board in front of their station and information was updated each morning.

Response – Public Information

- Information was distributed to local media outlets and posted on facebook and twitter.
- The National Weather Service was asked to release information via weather radio alerts and advise citizens that food and water was available at their local fire department.
- Two electronic highway information boards were provided by Hyde County Health Department and utilized to get information to the community.

Response – Public Information



- During the power outages, in the Scranton/Sladesville area the fire department was asked to use their public announcement system to ride the roads making announcements.
- Firefighters and DSS workers visited homes notifying citizens of the resources available.



Hyde County Hurricane Irene – Recovery

Recovery – Debris Removal



- Hyde County Contractor - J.B. Coxwell completed the initial removal of vegetative debris (secondary roads – countywide) on Thursday, September 15, 2011 and began collection of C&D on Friday, September 16, 2011.
- The NCDOT Subcontractor - Crowder Gulf began removal of vegetative debris on Saturday, September 17, 2011 (primary roads.)

Recovery – Hyde County Correctional Institute



- The Hyde County Correctional Institute spray field was damaged extensively during the storm, J.B. Coxwell and the Hyde County Utilities Department worked non-stop to repair the damages.
- The spray field is located within a tree plantation and downed trees damaged a majority of the spray nozzles. Due to the damages, the spray field could not operate and the permit issued by the North Carolina Department of Environmental and Natural Resources would not allow for the facility to be clear cut.
- The spray field took approximately 1 ½ months to repair and the total cost was approximately 1.5 million dollars.

Recovery – Volunteer Organizations

- A Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters Coordinator position was established in order to process requests for cleanup assistance and manage the organizations providing assistance within the county.
- A base camp was opened for the volunteers providing assistance and it is located at the former O.A. Peay Elementary School in the gymnasium. Hyde County repaired the gymnasium and installed commercial kitchen equipment at the facility.
- Since being established the Volunteer Organization Coordinator has received hundreds of requests for assistance ranging from debris removal to mold remediation.



Conclusion - Lessons Learned/Opportunities to Improve

- The early and concurrent evacuation of the Mainland and Ocracoke allowed the county to provide services that had not been previously offered.
- Utilizing the tools at our disposal pays big dividends.
- Close coordination with the local NWS office is extremely important for planning response activities and situational awareness.
- Public Education and community involvement are required to increase citizens understanding and comfort with the County's emergency plans.
- Since Hurricane Irene, a Long-Term Recovery committee has formed to assist with the recovery process.

Conclusion – Questions/Comments

Questions?